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## Department of State TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

PA/PRS - MR. CARTER

H - MR. FLATENIS/S-O:MR. VALERGA

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/IAI - MR. KORN

NEA/ARN - MR. CLUVERIUS

NEA/EGY - MR. MARTINUS

NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

NEA/IRN - MR. PRECHT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDO/LIR

REVIEWED BY *W. J. Nease* DATE *4/1/80*

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY Dacca IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION SINAI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE  
ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS  
SECDEF WASHDC 0000  
JCS WASHDC 0000  
CIA WASHDC 0000  
NSC WASHDC 0000  
USICA  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A  
ZFF4 SECRETARY ONLY

TAGS: SOPN

INFORM CONSULS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - FEBRUARY 15

INFORM CONSULS: SECRETARY'S PARTY, PLS PASS POWELL,  
SCHECTER AND TRATTNER

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
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EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR FEBRUARY 15,  
1979. SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

MR. CARTER: "WE HAVE MADE A REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF  
TURKEY TO SEND FIVE HH-53 HELICOPTERS AND SIX C-130  
AIRCRAFT TO TACTIK AIR BASE TO BE USED FOR EVACUATION  
OF U.S. PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM IRAN IF THE  
NEED ARISES. THAT'S FIVE HELICOPTERS, SIX AIRCRAFT.

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A. MAYBE IT VANISHED WITH YESTERDAY'S HEADLINES; I DON'T KNOW. THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY HAS GIVEN THE REQUIRED PERMISSION TO THIS REQUEST, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING

CONDITIONS: THE HELICOPTERS WILL BE FLOWN INTO IRAN ONLY WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES. THEY WILL BE UNARMED AND CARRY NO MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR WEAPONS. THEY WILL HAVE NO MORE THAN THE STANDARD CREW AND THEY WILL EVACUATE ONLY AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES.

THESE CONDITIONS ARE PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY VIEWED OUR REQUEST AS A HUMANITARIAN ONE AND GAVE ITS APPROVAL ACCORDINGLY. WE APPRECIATE THIS RESPONSE ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY.

O. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE PLANNED EVACUATION HAS RUN INTO SOME SNAGS. I WONDER IF YOU COULD SAY WHETHER THAT'S SO AND WHETHER YOUR EXPECTATION STILL IS THAT THE AIRPORT WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY AND YOU CAN BEGIN YOUR EVACUATION.

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A. WE ARE PREPARING TO EVACUATE THOSE AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM IRAN WHO WISH TO LEAVE. WE HOPE TO BEGIN THE OPERATION ON SATURDAY WITH A MINIMUM OF TWO FLIGHTS, CHARTERED, PAN AM INTO TEHRAN. THE PLANES WE ENVISION USING CARRY 400 PASSENGERS EACH.

WE ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT ABOUT PREPARATIONS FOR THIS. THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS ASSISTING US FULLY IN THIS REGARD, AND WE HAVE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL ASSIST IN MOVING AMERICANS OUT OF IRAN TO MEHRABAD AIRPORT AT TEHRAN. AT THE MOMENT, THAT IS THE ONLY AIRPORT WHICH WILL BE USED FOR THE EVACUATION.

O. ARE ANY OTHER FIELDS OPEN OR EXPECTED TO BE OPEN?

A. NO. NOT NOW.

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Q. DOES THAT ALL MEAN THERE ARE NO SNAGS?

A. LET ME NOTE SEVERAL THINGS HERE. THE DECLARATIVE SENTENCES REPRESENT THE SITUATION AS OF RIGHT NOW. IT IS WHAT WE EXPECT. IT IS ALSO A SITUATION WHICH WILL BE DEVELOPING OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND, THEREFORE, AS IT DEVELOPS, I WILL TRY TO GIVE YOU MORE.

WE ARE NOT POSITIVE HOW MANY AMERICANS OF THE ROUGHLY 7,000 WHO ARE LEFT IN FACT WILL WANT TO LEAVE. THESE ARE, FOR THE MOST PART, PRIVATE CITIZENS WHO MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS. SOME 2,000 OF THEM ARE MARRIED TO IRANIANS. IT IS ENTIRELY LIKELY

THAT THEY WILL NOT WANT TO GO. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT MOST OF THEM, IN FACT, DO NOT WISH TO LEAVE. WHETHER

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THAT WILL PROVE OUT TO BE TRUE OR NOT, I DON'T KNOW. BUT YOU CAN ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE SOME NOT TRYING TO GO OUT OF THE TOTAL LEFT.

YOU CAN ALSO ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE OTHERS WHO HAVE RIGHT NOW DECIDED THAT THEY WANT TO STAY. SO PROJECTIONS ABOUT WHAT IS GOING TO BE INVOLVED IN THE EVACUATION OF REMAINING AMERICANS REST ON CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH GO BEYOND THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE.

I WANT TO STRESS VERY QUICKLY THOUGH THAT ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WANT TO COME OUT OF THAT COUNTRY WHO WISH TO DO SO WILL BE ASSISTED BY THIS GOVERNMENT TO LEAVE.

Q. I THINK YOU KNOW THAT THE REASON THAT MANY OF THESE QUESTIONS ARE BEING ASKED IS BECAUSE OF STATEMENTS THAT HAVE COME OUT OF IRAN TO THE EFFECT THAT SOME OF THE KHOMEINI PEOPLE ARE SAYING, "WE WILL DECIDE WHEN THOSE AMERICANS LEAVE." NOW, THERE IS NO REFLECTION OF ANY OF THAT IN ANY OF YOUR STATEMENT, EXCEPT THAT YOU'RE SAYING, WE HOPE THEY'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE ON SATURDAY.

A. WE EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE A MINIMUM OF TWO PLANES GOING IN THERE. I HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT.

Q. ARE WE TO INFER FROM EVERYTHING YOU'VE SAID THAT

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YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN NONE OF THESE STATEMENTS DIRECTLY FROM THE KHOMEINI PEOPLE, THAT ALL YOU HAVE IS NOTHING BUT SWEETNESS AND LIGHT FROM THEM?

A. IN OUR CONTACTS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THAT GOVERNMENT, WHICH WE HAVE HAD HERE AND WHICH WE HAVE HAD IN IRAN, THE INDICATIONS HAVE BEEN THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH US IN THE SAFE EVACUATION OF THOSE AMERICANS WHO WISHED TO LEAVE.

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I WILL SAY ON BACKGROUND THAT A NUMBER OF STORIES SUGGESTING THAT THIS AND THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN AND PURPORTING TO BE THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS MAY WELL HAVE TENDED TO IRRITATE SOME IRANIAN OFFICIALS WHO THINK THAT THEY MIGHT BE FIRST INFORMED OF OUR PLANS BY OUR OFFICIALS RATHER THAN BY PRESS REPORTING AND THAT THEY MAY IN FACT HAVE REACTED TO THAT.

BUT AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL, IN THE AREA IN WHICH WE ARE DEALING, WE HAVE HAD NO INDICATION OF ANYTHING EXCEPT COOPERATION. OFF BACKGROUND.

Q. HOW MUCH STAFF DO YOU PLAN TO LEAVE AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO GIVE A PROJECTED FIGURE ON THAT. THAT IS SOMETHING THAT THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE WORKING OUT.

**Q. BUT IT IS GOING TO BE CUT DOWN IN TOTAL SIZE?**

A. I THINK THAT HE INTENDS TO REDUCE IT UNDER THE ASPECTS OF PHASE III THAT I DISCUSSED WITH YOU BEFORE.

Q. WHERE DO THE C-130S ENTER INTO THE EQUATION?

A. THEY ARE GOING FOR REFUELING POSSIBILITIES, PRIMARILY. THEY ALSO OBVIOUSLY COULD BE USED, IF NEEDED, TO CARRY SOME PEOPLE.

Q. BUT YOU HAVE NO PLANS TO ASK THE KHOMEINI GOVERNMENT

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TO LET THEM COME INTO MEHRABAD?  
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A. AS OF RIGHT NOW THEY ARE THERE FOR CONTINGENCY -- OR WILL BE THERE FOR CONTINGENCY -- PURPOSES. WE DO NOT HAVE A GAME PLAN AT THIS POINT FOR THEIR UTILIZATION.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE HELICOPTERS? YOU TALK ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT COOPERATING, GETTING PEOPLE TO THE AIRPORT. DOES THIS MEAN THE HELICOPTERS MIGHT NOT BE NEEDED TO HERD PEOPLE AROUND THE CITY?

A. IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE. I REALLY DO WANT TO STRESS THAT RIGHT NOW THOSE HELICOPTERS ARE THERE FOR POSSIBLE, AS OPPOSED TO PROJECTED, USE.

Q. THE CONDITIONS THAT YOU SAID THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED FOR SEEM TO BE EXACTLY THE SAME ONES WE SAW COMING OUT OF ANKARA THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK. HAS ANYTHING REALLY CHANGED ON THAT?

A. NO. AGAIN GOING ON BACKGROUND, GOVERNMENTS TEND TO BE A LITTLE SENSITIVE ABOUT WHAT THEY READ; AND THERE WERE STORIES EMANATING FROM SOME PLACES IN THIS TOWN ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS AND THERE WAS SOME DESIRE TO GET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AS TO WHOSE SOVEREIGNTY WAS INVOLVED HERE.

Q. BUT AT THE TIME THAT WE FIRST HEARD PUBLICITY OF THOSE TURKISH CONDITIONS, THE HELICOPTERS WERE NOT SENT ON TO TURKEY. THEY WERE SHORTSTOPPED SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY. NOW, HAS ANYTHING REALLY CHANGED IN THE CONDITIONS OR IS IT JUST THAT WE NOW FIND THEM ACCEPTABLE AND WE WERE NOT SURE OF THEM EARLIER?

A. NO. I THINK THAT NOW, GIVEN THE DECISIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN ABOUT PROVIDING EVACUATION, WISHING TO HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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A CONTINGENCY POSSIBILITY UP CLOSE, THEY HAVE BEEN IN  
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THE PROCESS NOW OF MOVING FORWARD.

Q. IS IT YOUR INTENTION TO USE ONLY CIVILIAN AIRPLANES? YOU MENTIONED TWO PAN AM'S ON SATURDAY, IF POSSIBLE.

A. I WOULD SAY THAT THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES THAT EXIST FOR SEVERAL THINGS, DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION. RIGHT NOW, THE IMMEDIATE INTENTION FOR THE BULK OF THE EVACUATION EFFORT IN THIS OPENING DAY IS GOING TO BE THESE TWO CIVILIAN PAN AM 747S. BUT I'M SIMPLY NOT GOING TO TRY TO DEAL WITH WHAT MAY BE DONE BEYOND THAT. IN ANY CASE IT WILL BE DONE IN COOPERATION WITH AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH IRANIAN AUTHORITIES AND AGREEMENTS THAT WE WORK OUT BETWEEN US.

Q. WHERE WILL PAN AM TAKE THESE PEOPLE?

A. I AM NOT SURE. THERE ARE SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES, AND I AM NOT REALLY IN A POSITION RIGHT NOW TO SAY WHAT THEY ARE. BUT SOME I THINK I'VE DISCUSSED WITH YOU BEFORE.

Q. WESTERN EUROPE, PRESUMABLY?

A. NOT NECESSARILY.

Q. HAS THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN MADE ANY COMMENT ON THE ADVISABILITY OF AN EVACUATION? ARE THEY IN FAVOR OR NOT? DO THEY THINK ONE IS NOT NECESSARY? IS THIS IN THE NATURE OF AN EXPULSION IN ANY WAY?

A. NO, IT'S NOT IN THE NATURE OF AN EXPULSION. IT IS A DECISION THAT OUR EMBASSY HAS TAKEN AS TO WHAT IT DEEMS  
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AND WHICH, OBVIOUSLY, IN CONSULTATION WITH US, WE AGREE AS TO INSURING THE SAFETY OF AMERICANS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS SIMPLY INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH US. IT IS NOT AN EXPULSION.

Q. THEY HAVE NOT SAID THOUGH THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE EVACUATION, THAT WE CAN GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY OR THEIR RELEASE.

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A. I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION WE'VE HAD WITH THEM. THEY RESPECT OUR DESIRE, TAKE STEPS WHICH WE THINK ARE NECESSARY -- GIVEN OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF THE AMERICANS. WHAT THEY DO OR DO NOT THINK ABOUT IT I THINK IS IMPORTANT IN THIS REGARD ONLY. THEY HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE FULLY.

Q. COULD YOU GIVE US AN IDEA OF HOW THE OPERATION WORKS ON THIS END? FOR EXAMPLE, IS THIS BEING COORDINATED HERE BY THE WORKING GROUP OR IS IT BY THIS COORDINATING COMMITTEE AT THE WHITE HOUSE; AND HOW DO THESE PEOPLE HERE COMMUNICATE THEIR ASSESSMENTS AND DECISIONS TO TEHRAN?

A. THERE IS NOW A COMMUNICATION LINK ESTABLISHED DIRECTLY WITH THE EMBASSY SO THAT THERE CAN BE FAIRLY QUICK COMMUNICATION BACK AND FORTH. THE WORKING GROUP CONTINUES TO FUNCTION 24 HOURS A DAY, DEALING WITH SPECIFIC EVENTS AS THEY OCCUR. POLICY DECISIONS ARE DISCUSSED, AS USUAL, AT A HIGHER RANKING GROUP -- AT THE WHITE HOUSE; AND THE BASIC DECISIONS ARE, AS USUAL, ALSO APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Q. AND ARE YOU IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE SECRETARY AS WELL ON THIS SPECIFIC MATTER?  
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A. THE SECRETARY IS, INDEED, IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH THIS BUILDING ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON. YES.

Q. CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT PHASE III IS EXACTLY?

A. NO, I REALLY CAN'T BUT I'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE THE QUESTION AS TO WHERE IT STANDS AND SOME PECKING ORDER OF PHASES. I CAN USE THE PHRASE AND TELL YOU THAT IT MEANS THE EVACUATION OF A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW OTHERWISE DEEMED ESSENTIAL AND IT'S THEN THAT THE AMBASSADOR CAN MAKE THE DESIGNATION OF THOSE HE WISHES TO HAVE REMAIN BEHIND UNDER SUCH A PHASED THING. BUT I DON'T REALLY HAVE THE LANGUAGE IN FRONT OF ME.

Q. ARE THE PLANES AND ARE THE HELICOPTERS ALREADY IN

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PLACE IN INCIRLIK?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO DEAL WITH THAT QUESTION.

Q. YOU SAID THE HELICOPTERS ARE THERE FOR A CERTAIN REASON.

A. NO. I SAID THAT WHEN THEY GET THERE -- I RECALL MY CATCHING MYSELF UP ON THAT ONE. I'M NOT GOING TO DEAL WITH THAT ONE.

Q. ARE THE IRANIANS MAKING ANY PROVISION TO MOVE AMERICANS FROM ISFAHAN AND SHIRAZ AND OTHER PLACES AT SOME DISTANCE FROM TEHRAN?

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS RIGHT NOW FOR SUCH  
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MOVEMENTS. I AGAIN WANT TO SAY THAT WE WILL BE DEALING WITH ALL AMERICANS IN THAT COUNTRY WHO WISH TO LEAVE, AND WE WILL BE WORKING THAT OUT.

Q. WELL, THAT'S POTENTIALLY A CONSIDERABLE PROBLEM UNLESS THEY GET MORE OF THOSE AIRFIELDS OPEN.

A. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AND SEE HOW IT DEVELOPS.

I WANT TO ADD SOMETHING HERE, JUST FOR PERSPECTIVE. WE HAVE NO REPORTS AT THIS TIME OF ANYTHING SIMILAR TO WHAT OCCURRED YESTERDAY AT THE EMBASSY. AND WHILE WE HAVE CONCERN AND WHILE THERE ARE REPORTS OF FIGHTING IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND WHILE THE SITUATION IS UNCLEAR IN MANY, I DON'T WANT TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE HERE OF A PANIC OPERATION. THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF A PROCESS WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER WAY NOW FOR SOME MONTHS, STARTING AT A NUMBER OF AMERICANS IN THAT COUNTRY TOTALING SOME 45 OR MORE THOUSAND AND WHICH HAS NOW COME DOWN TO SOME 7 THOUSAND AND WHICH WILL, WHEN THIS OPERATION IS OVER, PERHAPS LEAVE US WITH 2,500 OR 3,000 PEOPLE. WHO KNOWS?

Q. CAN YOU GO INTO THE RUSSIANS FOR A LITTLE BIT --

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THE COMMUNICATIONS YOU'VE HAD WITH THE RUSSIANS, BOTH ABOUT THIS EVACUATION AND ANY IMPRESSIONS YOU MAY NOW HAVE AS TO WHETHER THEY PEOPLE WHO ASSAULTED THE EMBASSY WERE PRO-SOVIET TO ANY DEGREE OR WHETHER THERE WAS A SOVIET HAND IN THAT ASSAULT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY KIND OF APPRAISAL I CAN OFFER YOU THAT'S USEFUL ON THE IDENTITY OF MOTIVATION OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THE ASSAULT. I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE THRUST OF OUR COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION. I TOLD YOU YESTERDAY THAT WE HAD COMMUNICATED WITH THEM  
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IN CONNECTION WITH THE SITUATION IN IRAN, AND THAT'S REALLY WHERE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO STOP.

Q. WELL, MAYBE YOU CAN JUST ADD A LITTLE BIT MORE BECAUSE, CLEARLY, ONE LOGICAL INFERENCE IS THAT YOU'VE TOLD THEM THAT THIS ISN'T INTERFERENCE, THAT THIS IS JUST EVACUATION. IS THAT IN FACT TRUE? DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT FEEL SOME NECESSITY TO TELL THE SOVIETS THAT UNARMED HELICOPTERS OR UNARMED CHARTER PLANES DON'T AMOUNT TO MILITARY INTERVENTION?

A. NO. I DON'T AGREE AND AM NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON THE CONTENT OF WHAT WE'VE COMMUNICATED TO THE SOVIET UNION.

I WOULD, HOWEVER, PARAPHRASE THE SITUATION FOR YOU AND SUGGEST THAT -- JUST TO REVERSE YOUR QUESTION -- IF THERE WERE A MOVEMENT OF SOVIET EQUIPMENT IN MEXICO AT A TIME OF SOME CRISIS THERE, WE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT IT ALL MEANT. BUT I DO NOT IN ANY WAY INDICATE THAT THAT IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING.

Q. DO YOU HAVE A READOUT ON THE PROTEST THAT'S BEEN REPORTED FROM MOSCOW TODAY ABOUT THE SOVIET PRESS COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION?

A. I SAW THAT. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON IT, AND I MAY COME BACK TO YOU ON THAT. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD TO THAT, AND I CAN'T EVEN CONFIRM IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY PEOPLE THERE ARE IN

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AREAS OUTSIDE OF TEHRAN, AREAS THAT PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TO  
BE TRANSPORTED FROM?

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A. I HAVE SOME ROUGH FIGURES AND THIS IS A GAME THAT I  
HATE TO GET INTO. LET ME SAY THAT ROUGHLY FIVE-SEVENTHS  
OF ALL THE AMERICANS IN IRAN ARE IN TEHRAN. IN OTHER  
WORDS, SOME FIVE THOUSAND OUT OF SEVEN THOUSAND, OR 55  
OUT OF 75, DEPENDING. I DON'T LIKE THESE FIGURES,  
BUT JUST USE THEM FOR A ROUGH KIND OF DEAL. OUTSIDE OF  
THERE, THE LARGEST NUMBER OF AMERICANS THEREAFTER,  
ROUGHLY, ARE 2,000, MORE OR LESS, U.S. CITIZENS IN  
ISPAHAN, AND LESS THAN A THOUSAND ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY.

Q. GETTING BACK TO THE HELICOPTERS A MOMENT, IT WOULD  
SEEM TO ME THAT YOU WOULD ONLY PUT THE HELICOPTERS IN  
THERE IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION TO GET PEOPLE OUT. HAVING  
AGREED NOT TO HAVE ANYONE ABOARD THOSE HELICOPTERS WITH  
WEAPONS, HOW WOULD YOU PROVIDE SECURITY IN THAT SITUATION?

A. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CONTINGENCIES. I DON'T WANT

TO DEBATE ALL THE POSSIBLE CONTINGENCIES, BUT THERE ARE  
A NUMBER THAT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED WHICH SIMPLY DON'T  
INVOLVE THAT KIND OF RISK OR DANGER. IN ANY CASE, WE  
ARE CONSIDERING A NUMBER OF POSSIBILITIES FOR EVACUATION  
AND THEY RANGE FROM -- WELL, ACROSS THE BOARD. I AM NOT  
GOING TO GO INTO ALL OF THEM, BUT THERE ARE USES THAT YOU  
COULD MAKE OF UNARMED HELICOPTERS.

Q. BUT THE IDEA OF SENDING IN MARINES THAT WE HEARD  
ABOUT ON THE WEEKEND, THAT HAS BEEN SET ASIDE AT THE TIME?

A. THERE IS NO PLAN WHATSOEVER TO SEND ANY ADDITIONAL  
AMERICAN SECURITY FORCES -- PERIOD.

Q. YOUR ACQUIESCENCE IN THE TURKISH CONDITIONS DOES NOT  
MEAN THAT YOU COULDN'T PUT SECURITY FORCES ON THOSE

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HELICOPTERS ONCE THEY GET INTO IRAN, DOES IT?

A. THAT KIND OF SPECULATION CARRIES WITH IT A COUPLE OF THINGS, NONE OF WHICH I AM WILLING TO GET INTO. BUT AMONG THE THINGS IT CARRIES WITH IT IS THE THOUGHT THAT WE WOULD WANT TO, AND I AM NOT EVEN GOING TO AGREE TO THAT.

D. THE REPORTS FROM TEHRAN ARE THAT THE BRITISH WILL SEND PLANES IN, FOR THEIR OWN NATIONALS. THE FRENCH AND GERMANS HAVE NOT DECIDED TO AS YET.

WOULD A FRENCH NATIONAL, A SMALL CHILD, NOT BE PERMITTED TO COME ON THE AMERICAN PLANE? OR ARE THERE PARTICULAR KINDS OF COUNTRIES THE TURKS DON'T WANT HELPED?

A. NO. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE SURE, OBVIOUSLY, THAT THIS WAS AN AMERICAN OPERATION FOR SPECIFICALLY AMERICAN PURPOSES UNDER THE HUMANITARIAN TERMS THAT THEY GRANTED IT.

LET ME SPEAK FOR THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND ITS OWN SENSE OF WHETHER OR NOT IT WOULD WANT TO BE WILLING TO, OR WOULD HELP TAKE FOREIGN NATIONALS OUT OF IRAN. THE ANSWER IS YES, WE WOULD, AND WILL AS CONDITIONS WARRANT, AND IN FACT ALSO BELIEVE THAT OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WILL DO THE SAME FOR US.

D. IS THAT REPORT ON THE BRITISH CORRECT, AS FAR AS YOU KNOW?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH EACH OTHER COUNTRY'S PLANS.

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D. OF THE 7,000 OR SO AMERICANS, HOW MANY ARE IN THE CATEGORY OF OFFICIALS AND DEPENDENTS?

A. WE ARE DOWN TO VERY, VERY FEW ON THE OFFICIAL CATEGORY. I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION AND WE OUGHT TO GET AN ANSWER RIGHT AFTER THIS BRIEFING.

D. DOES THE EMBASSY HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT OF THE

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6,000 OR SO, JUST ROUGHLY; NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS AND DEPENDENTS, MOST ARE ANXIOUS TO LEAVE OR YOU SAID ABOUT 2,000 PROBABLY DON'T WANT TO LEAVE.

A. I SAID ARE MARRIED TO IRANIANS, AND THERE IS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WOULD REMAIN.

Q. RIGHT. SO THAT LEAVES ABOUT 4,000, ROUGHLY. WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO LEAVE OR NOT.

A. YOU REMEMBER THERE ARE SOME FIGURES THAT HAVE BEEN THROWN AROUND HERE, AND THE TROUBLE WITH THIS WHOLE GAME IS PRECISELY THAT THE WHOLE SITUATION IS FLUID. BUT THERE WAS A BACKLOG BEFORE THE EVENTS OF THE WEEKEND AND MONDAY. THERE WAS A BACKLOG OF PEOPLE WHO HAD ALREADY INDICATED THAT THEY WANTED TO COME OUT ON FLIGHTS WHICH WERE CANCELLED BECAUSE THE AIRPORT WAS NOT FUNCTIONING ANY MORE, AND THAT WAS WELL OVER -- ALMOST 2,000, SOME 1,700 PEOPLE. SO, YOU KNOW THAT EXISTS AND IT WOULD BE HARD TO BELIEVE, GIVEN THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE MORE.

INCIDENTALLY, IN TEHRAN THE EMBASSY COMPOUND ITSELF IS A STAGING AREA, AND ALSO THE OLD COMMISSARY AREA, AS I RECALL. BUT, IN ANY CASE, TWO PLACES FOR STAGING FOR TAKING FOLK IN GROUPS TO THE AIRPORT.

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Q. CAN A HELICOPTER LAND IN THE COMPOUND?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. ARE THERE ANY PROBLEMS THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF, THAT YOU ENCOUNTERED IN THESE CASES OF AMERICAN MARRIED TO IRANIANS, WHERE THE IRANIAN SPOUSES MAY WANT TO COME OUT? ARE YOU ENCOUNTERING ANY PROBLEMS?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY. I LITERALLY DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION. I HAVE NOT SEEN ANY STORIES OR REPORTING TO THAT END.

Q. YOU SAID THAT THE KHOMEINI GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO  
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COOPERATE FULLY IN THE EVACUATION PROCEDURES. I AM  
CORRECT ON THAT?

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FEEL THAT THE KHOMEINI GOVERNMENT HAS THE CAPACITY TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF THE AMERICANS DURING THE EVACUATION PROCESS?

A. WE TRUST THAT THEY CAN. YES.

Q. THE SECOND QUESTION IS: ON THE F14'S AND PHOENIX MISSILES AT THE BASE NEAR ISFAHAN, COULD YOU RUN US THROUGH YOUR GUIDANCE ON THAT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING NEW TO ADD TO IT, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH.

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Q. IS IT STILL THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE  
IRANIAN AIR FORCE TO PROTECT THEM?

A. WE BELIEVE THAT THEY INTEND TO PROTECT THOSE PIECES OF EQUIPMENT.

Q. WE WENT THROUGH A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO ABOUT WHETHER AMERICANS HAD BEEN ALLOWED ONTO THE BASES. AND, AS I REMEMBER, YOU WEREN'T SURE BUT YOU WERE GOING TO CHECK. HAVE YOU CHECKED AS TO WHETHER ANY AMERICANS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED ONTO THE BASES TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES ABOUT THE F-14'S AND THE PHOENIXES?

A. I DON'T KNOW. WE ARE BARELY BACK IN CONTACT, AS IT IS, BUT I WILL CHECK. I THINK AT ONE POINT SOME AMERICANS WERE BACK ON THE BASE. YES, I AM SURE OF THAT. BUT, NOW, I DON'T KNOW IN THE LAST DAY OR SO WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

Q. I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT THE LAST DAY, I AM REALLY TALKING ABOUT THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. THERE IS ONE THING ABOUT AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN PERMITTED BACK ONTO THE BASES IN ORDER TO GET THEIR PERSONAL EFFECTS ON

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BOARD PLANES THAT WERE LEAVING IRAN. IT IS ANOTHER THING FOR THE AMERICANS TO GET BACK ON THE BASES SO THAT THEY CAN ACTUALLY INSPECT THE AREAS WHERE THE BLACK

BOXES WERE RETAINED.

A. I AM GETTING A NOD FROM MY WORKING GROUP SITTING DOWN HERE THAT THE ANSWER IS YES. NONETHELESS, LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION AS TO HOW MUCH.

O. AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, THE AMERICANS WHO WERE BARRED  
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AT ISFAHAN WERE CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF GRUNNAM, AND ALSO IN ANOTHER CASE OF BELL, WHOSE FUNCTION WAS NOT ONE OF SECURITY AT ALL. IS THAT NOT CORRECT? OR DID THEY HAVE A FUNCTION OF MAKING SURE THAT THE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT WAS IN SAFE HANDS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA. THAT IS THE KIND OF DETAIL I AM JUST SIMPLY GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THE QUESTION ON.

O. IF, AS YOU SAY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE KHOMEINI GOVERNMENT HAS THE POWER TO PROVIDE SECURITY IN THIS OPERATION, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD TELL US WHY THE KHOMEINI GOVERNMENT DIDN'T HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THIS OVERRUNNING AND OCCUPYING OF OUR EMBASSY?

A. I THINK THAT THEY ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND OF THE POTENTIAL IN IT, AND THAT THE EVENTS AT THE EMBASSY ITSELF INDICATES TO THE GOVERNMENT WHAT STEPS MAY BE NECESSARY.

O. WHEN HE WAS SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. KISSINGER TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT THE CONVICTED KILLERS OF AMBASSADOR CLEO NOEL IN KHARTOUM WOULD BE -- IN HIS WORDS -- SEVERELY PUNISHED. SINCE THESE MURDERERS WERE TURNED OVER TO EGYPT BY SUDAN, HAS OUR EMBASSY IN CAIRO EVER LEARNED OR EVEN INVESTIGATED WHETHER THESE PEOPLE ARE STILL IN PRISON OR WERE EVER IN PRISON RATHER THAN HOUSE ARREST OR EVEN RELEASED?

A. AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER. I WILL JUST HAVE TO TAKE IT, BECAUSE I CAN'T RECALL THEIR STATUS.

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Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY AGREEMENT OR SECURITY MEASURES  
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TAKEN RIGHT NOW IN IRAN UPON THE ARRIVAL OF THE PLANES  
IN TEHRAN, LIKE WHO IS GOING TO BE TAKING CARE OF THE  
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AND PROTECTING THE PLANES?

A. THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

Q. JUST THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

A. THAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY -- THE BASIC WELL-BEING  
OF CITIZENS IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, AND OF AN OPERATION  
SUCH AS THAT IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY, IS THAT OF THE HOST  
GOVERNMENT.

Q. AND YOU TRUST THAT WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF.

A. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL.

Q. ARE THESE PLANES, THE C-130'S, NOW IN THE AMERICAN  
BASE IN ATHENS?

A. WE HAVE PLANES IN A NUMBER OF PLACES IN EUROPE, AND  
I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO WHAT ASSETS, AS THEY SAY ACROSS  
THE RIVER, WILL BE UTILIZED OR NOT UTILIZED.

Q. THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HAS SAID THAT HE CAN'T  
PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES IN TEHRAN. HOW DO YOU VIEW THIS  
DECLARATION HERE?

A. AS SERIOUS.

Q. YOU SAID THAT 2,000 AMERICANS ARE PROBABLY GOING TO  
STAY THERE. DO YOU SHARE THIS VIEW?

A. YOU MAKE A DETERMINATION WHEN YOU ARE THE AMBASSADOR  
ACCORDING TO THE RESPONSIBILITY YOU HAVE AS TO WHETHER  
OR NOT YOU, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES  
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GOVERNMENT, CAN GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE AT LEAST INDIRECTLY ENTRUSTED IN YOUR CARE. HE HAS MADE THAT DETERMINATION. EACH INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN WHO IS NOT AN OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, MAKES HIS OWN DETERMINATION AS TO WHAT THE SITUATION IS. AND I CANNOT SPEAK FOR WHAT WILL OR WILL NOT HAPPEN IN THE INSTANCE TO THE SEVERAL THOUSAND WHO MAY REMAIN BEHIND. I CANNOT EVEN OFFER TO YOU AS AN ABSOLUTE DECLARATION THAT ANY WILL REMAIN BEHIND. I OFFERED YOU A POSSIBILITY OF WHAT WE THINK IS A PROBABILITY. BUT I DON'T KNOW. THEY ARE MARRIED TO IRANIANS. IF THEY ARE RUNNING AROUND THE STREET, MAYBE THAT WILL HAVE SOME EFFECT.

Q. YOU SEEMED BEFORE TO BE CHARACTERIZING YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AT LEAST INSOFAR AS WHAT IS GOING ON IN IRAN, AS KIND OF IN A POSITIVE SENSE. IN OTHER WORDS, REASSURING THE SOVIETS.

A. NO. I TRIED VERY HARD NOT TO CHARACTERIZE WHAT THE BODY OF OUR CONTACT WITH THEM IS. I SAID WE HAVE BEEN

IN CONTACT WITH THEM. I WAS THEN ASKED WHAT I REGARD AS A HYPOTHEITICAL QUESTION AS TO WHY WE WOULD BE WANTING TO TELL THEM ABOUT UNARMED THINGS GOING AROUND, AND I GAVE AN EXAMPLE OF WHY WE MIGHT WANT TO DO IT -- A REVERSE KIND OF EXAMPLE.

Q. YOUR HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE, THOUGH, WAS ONE OF REASSURANCE. AND WHAT I AM ASKING IS WHETHER THE TOTALITY OF YOUR CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET UNION WAS OF THAT NATURE, KIND OF A REASSURING NATURE, OR WAS THERE IN FACT ANYTHING NEGATIVE IN THAT CONTACT?

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A. I AM NOT GOING TO CHARACTERIZE OUR CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON THE QUESTION OF EVENTS IN IRAN IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER AT THIS TIME. AS I SAID EARLIER, I MAY BE BACK WITH YOU ON THIS.

Q. OKAY. OUTSIDE THE REALM THEN OF YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, DOES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR FUNNELLING

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WEAPONS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, INTO IRAN?

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION RIGHT NOW. I WILL TAKE IT. I DON'T HAVE A NEW ASSESSMENT TO OFFER YOU.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY CHARACTERIZATION OF THE NATURE OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AT THIS STAGE?

A. DO YOU MEAN, HAVE WE TAKEN THAT SORT OF INDEFINABLE BUT NONETHELESS REAL STEP OF DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SAY THAT WE CONTINUE NORMAL RELATIONS? WE ARE STILL IN THE POSITION THAT WE WERE IN WHEN WE LAST WENT THROUGH THIS.

Q. BESIDES THESE MEASURES TO EVACUATE AMERICANS, ALL THE REST OF THE ITEMS THAT ARE NORMALLY DISCUSSED BETWEEN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES, HOW ARE YOU DOING THAT?

A. I PAUSE ON THIS ONE, BECAUSE THE QUESTION IMPLIES THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FUNCTION NORMALLY OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, WHICH I FIND AMUSING ON ITS FACE. WE HAVE NOT HAD MUCH CHANCE TO BE DISCUSSING MUCH EXCEPT THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR EMBASSY, AND THE QUESTION OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE PERSONS OF A LOT OF THE AMERICANS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THIS GOVERNMENT ABOUT A NUMBER OF ONGOING PROJECTS  
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INVOLVING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. BUT RIGHT IN THROUGH HERE, WE HAVEN'T HAD TOO MUCH.

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE IT IS PROPER FOR AN ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES TO PLACE CONDITIONS LIKE TURKEY DID FOR THE STATIONING OF THE HELICOPTERS IN SUCH EMERGENCY CASE?

A. YES. THERE IS A SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF A NATION TO DO SO.

Q. YES. IT IS A SOVEREIGN RIGHT, BUT IS IT PROPER TO DO IT IN SUCH A CASE?

A. I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO OFFER TO THAT, AS I SAID IN THE  
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STATEMENT.

Q. WILL THOSE PLANES BE PUT ON A NATO BASE?

A. I CAN'T REMEMBER. ONE OF YOU GUYS WHO ARE AN EXPERT ON THIS.

Q. IT IS.

A. IT IS A NATO BASE WITH A TURKISH COMMANDER.

Q. HAS THE STATUS OF THE BASE BEEN CHANGED? IS THAT THE NORMAL CONDITION FOR POSITIONING AMERICAN PLANES ON A NATO BASE OR IS THERE SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY WHICH HAS BEEN CHANGING?

A. NO. I WANT TO REMIND YOU, AS I HAVE DONE BEFORE THAT IN SIMILAR INSTANCES INVOLVING OTHER NATO COUNTRIES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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WHICH WE WERE USING A COUNTRY FOR TRANSIT INTO A SITUATION WHICH INVOLVED ONLY US THERE HAVE BEEN RESTRICTIONS PLACED UPON THE USE OF OUR EQUIPMENT. IT IS NOT ABNORMAL. IT HAS HAPPENED IN A NUMBER OF INSTANCES.

Q. WITH REGARD TO THE 2,000 PEOPLE IN ISFAHAN, CAN WE ASSUME THAT NONE OF THEM BE AMONG THOSE 800 PEOPLE THAT WILL BE LEAVING ON SATURDAY OR MAYBE LEAVING ON SATURDAY?

A. I REALLY CAN'T PRESUME ANYTHING. I JUST SIMPLY DON'T KNOW.

Q. CAN WE ASSUME THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE THAT WILL BE LEAVING ON SATURDAY WILL BE FROM TEHRAN?

A. IT IS PROBABLE. I JUST SIMPLY DON'T KNOW. IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLY GIVEN THE FACTS OF GEOGRAPHY.

Q. HAVE YOU MADE ANY PLANS WHATSOEVER IN TERMS OF WHAT WILL HAVE TO BE DONE TO GET THOSE PEOPLE IN ISFAHAN TO AN AIRPORT?

A. AS OF NOW THOSE WHO WANT TO GO ARE GOING TO HAVE TO  
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GO OVERLAND, AS OF NOW -- UNDER THE GROUND RULES THAT I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED. AND I WANT TO SAY THAT WE ARE CONTINUING TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION AND WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS IT WITH THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. HAVE YOU HAD ANY REQUESTS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO EVACUATE THEIR NATIONALS? I AM THINKING OF THE ATTACK ON THE MORROCCAN EMBASSY?

Q. HOLDING IN ABEYANCE THE FACTS ABOUT THE MORROCAN  
EMBASSY OR NOT, SINCE I AM A LITTLE LESS SURE OF THAT  
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THAN YOU ARE, LET ME JUST SAY THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, DIPLOMATIC CONTACT, ABOUT THE SITUATION INVOLVING VARIOUS NATIONALS. I DON'T THINK I WANT TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US ASSURANCES OR CAN YOU STATE ASSURANCES THAT THE U.S. EVACUATION AND ANY EMERGENCY MEASURES WILL NOT BE HAMPERED IN ANY WAY BY THE RESTRICTIONS THE TURKS HAVE PLACED ON USE OF AMERICAN PLANES?

A. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT THERE IS A RESTRICTION WHICH WILL HAMPER OUR HUMANITARIAN OR EVACUATION EFFORT OR NECESSITY.

Q. DO THE CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY THE TURKS EXCLUDE ANY  
ON THE SCENE PRESS COVERAGE? THAT IS, COULD ANY  
JOURNALIST GO IN WITH THE C-130S?

A. I HAVE NO IDEA.

Q. COULD YOU CHECK ON THAT?

A. LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING. I DO CARRY A LOT OF WATER FOR YOU, BUT I THINK IF YOU WANT TO HAVE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT APPROVE YOUR GOING IN AND OUT OF THERE YOU MIGHT ASK THEM YOURSELVES.

LET ME GO BACK TO A FIGURE. THIS WAS TAKEN IN THE NOON PRESS BRIEFING THE 15TH. THERE WERE 119 U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL AND TWO DEPENDENTS AS OF FEBRUARY 7TH. THE CURRENT DOD FIGURES ARE 820 EMPLOYEES, OF WHOM 700

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ARE MILITARY AND 21 DEPENDENTS.

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Q. DO YOU HAVE A READ-OUT ON WHAT HAPPENED IN KABUL YESTERDAY?

A. THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED MULTIPLE GUNSHOT WOUNDS. THE SHOOTING LASTED A MINUTE OR SO WHILE THE HOTEL ROOM WAS BEING ATTACKED BY AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES AT APPROXIMATELY 12:50 KABUL TIME, FEBRUARY 14TH. THE AMBASSADOR DIED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

AT THIS TIME WE ARE NOT ABLE TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE OF THE SHOTS THAT KILLED THE AMBASSADOR.

I WAS ASKED THIS LAST NIGHT. I MEAN TO REPEAT, OTHER REPORTS TO THE CONTRARY, WE BELIEVE THAT THE AMBASSADOR DIED IN THE HOTEL ROOM.

THE BODY WAS REMOVED FROM THE HOTEL IN THE EMBASSY AMBULANCE. THE EMBASSY DOCTOR WAS AT THE HOTEL AND HE SAW THE BODY WITHIN MINUTES AFTER THE SHOOTING.

WE DO NOT KNOW YET, AND I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER BECAUSE I CAN'T KNOW ANYMORE, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SHOOTING, THAT IS, THE ACTUAL IDENTITY OF THE PEOPLE. NOR AM I SURE OF WHO WAS INVOLVED, THAT IS TO SAY, WHO WERE THE KIDNAPPERS. THERE ARE QUESTIONS AS TO WHO KILLED HIM AND THEN THE IDENTITY OF THE KIDNAPPERS THEMSELVES.

WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN ON THIS. I HAVE NO OTHER DETAILS TO GIVE YOU NOW.

Q. DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY THERE WERE?

A. I RAN THROUGH THAT ONE TOO. THEY SAY FOUR BODIES. WE SAW THREE.

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Q. AND YOU ALSO INDICATED YESTERDAY THAT ONE OF THOSE KIDNAPPERS MIGHT HAVE BEEN STILL ALIVE. DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS POINT OR WHETHER THE PERSON HAS BEEN QUESTIONED OR ANYTHING?

A. NO.

Q. HAS THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT GIVEN YOU ANY FOLLOW-UP ACCOUNT OF WHAT THEY DID OR WHY THEY DID IT OR EXPLAIN THEIR ACTIONS TO DCM AMSTUTZ?

A. I THINK THE ONLY THING THAT I HAVE AT THIS POINT IS AN OFFICIAL MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES FROM THE VICE PREMIER MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHO SENT A MESSAGE TO SECRETARY VANCE WHICH SAID: QUOTE

HIS EXCELLENCE CYRUS VANCE, ETCETERA:  
DUE TO THE TRAGIC AND UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS, I CONVEY MY DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND TO MRS. DUBS AND HIS BEREAVED FAMILY.

I ASSURE YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT NO EFFORTS WERE SPARED BY THE AFGHAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE LATE AMBASSADOR DUBS FROM THE COWARDLY ACT OF ARMED TERRORISTS WHO TOOK HIM HOSTAGE AND INFLICTED ON HIM WOUNDS RESULTING IN HIS SUBSEQUENT DEATH.

ONCE AGAIN I CONVEY MY DEEP SORROW AND REGRETS ON THE SAD DEMISE OF YOUR VERY ABLE AMBASSADOR WHO WAS KNOWN AS A GOOD FRIEND OF AFGHANISTAN. UNQUOTE.

Q. IS THAT YESTERDAY'S MESSAGE?

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A. THIS WAS RECEIVED IN HERE WHEN?

MR. SHERMAN: WHAT DOES IT SAY?

MR. CARTER: IT DOESN'T SAY.

Q. WELL, KABUL RADIO SAID THAT SUCH A MESSAGE WAS

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SENT YESTERDAY.

A. KABUL RADIO HAS ADVISED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO PRESIDENT CARTER, BUT THIS MESSAGE HASN'T BEEN RECEIVED.

Q. THEY ALSO MENTIONED YESTERDAY THAT AMIN SENT A MESSAGE.

A. WELL, WE DID NOT HAVE IT AT THE TIME I RAN THROUGH IT. I THINK I WAS ASKED THAT QUESTION. NO. TO ANSWER YOU.

Q. THE WORKING DAY IS NOW OVER IN KABUL. HAS ANYTHING FURTHER BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN KABUL TODAY THAT YOU HAD A REPORT ON EXPLAINING WHAT HAPPENED OR WHY IT HAPPENED?

A. I DON'T KNOW. NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

Q. YOU CAN'T TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT TODAY?

A. JUST THAT WE ARE FOLLOWING UP WITH THEM ON THIS QUESTION.

Q. YOU SAID THERE WAS A FAIRLY LONG REPORT FILED ABOUT THIS EVENT. WHAT DOES THE REPORT SAY ABOUT THE PRESENCE  
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OF SOVIET ADVISERS? WAS THERE ONE OR MORE?

A. THERE WERE MORE.

Q. HOW MANY?

A. I AM REALLY NOT GOING TO GO INTO ALL OF THE DETAILS OF THAT REPORT. I THINK THAT THE ACTING SECRETARY'S PROTEST INDICATED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES AND REQUESTED A REPORT FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON THEM. AND I THINK THAT I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE MUCH MORE TO SAY ABOUT IT UNTIL THERE IS A RESPONSE TO THAT. THERE HAS NOT BEEN A RESPONSE TO THAT PROTEST.

Q. ARE YOU READY TO SAY NOW WHETHER OR NOT WHEN YOU  
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GOT IN TOUCH WITH THE SOVIETS AFTER HE HAD BEEN  
ABDUCTED BUT NOT YET KILLED, THAT PART OF THAT GETTING  
IN TOUCH WAS TO SAY PLEASE TRY AND MAKE SURE THEY DON'T  
RUSH IN THERE AND SHOOT?

A. WE URGED UPON EVERYONE THAT WE TALKED TO THE NEED  
FOR CAUTION AND URGED AGAINST PRECIPITOUS ACTION.

I NEED TO CORRECT THE RECORD ON SOMETHING THAT I SAID  
YESTERDAY WHICH I FIRMLY BELIEVED TO BE TRUE, BUT IT WAS  
NOT. THE SENTENCE WAS: WE DID NOT HAVE NOR DID WE HAVE  
ANY ADVANCE NOTICE FROM THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT THAT THEY  
INTENDED TO RUSH THE HOTEL ROOM IN THE HOTEL KABUL. FOR  
THE RECORD WE SHOULD SAY THAT OUR EMBASSY IN KABUL WAS  
GIVEN ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE AFGHANI INTENTION TO STORM  
THE ROOM IN WHICH AMBASSADOR DUBS WAS BEING HELD.  
DURING THIS TIME, BETWEEN THE TIME OF THAT  
NOTIFICATION AND PRIOR TO THE RUSH, SECRETARY VANCE  
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PERSONALLY ORDERED THE EMBASSY TO COMMUNICATE TO THE  
HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT OUR  
DEEP CONCERN OVER THIS INTENTION. HE AGAIN REQUESTED  
IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THAT NO SUCH ACTIONS BE TAKEN.

Q. COULD YOU PUT A TIME ON THAT NOTIFICATION? IN OTHER  
WORDS, HOW LONG A PERIOD?

A. IT WAS BRIEFLY, VERY BRIEFLY, BEFORE THE RUSH.  
MINUTES. BY THE TIME IT WAS RECEIVED IN KABUL.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON WHETHER THEY GOT IN  
TOUCH WITH THE HIGHEST LEVELS IN THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT  
DURING THAT PERIOD?

A. THEY DID GET IN TOUCH, BUT I THINK IT WAS RIGHT AT...

Q. YOU DON'T ACCEPT THE OFFICIAL AFGHAN VERSION THAT  
AMBASSADOR DUBS WAS KILLED BY THE BULLETS OF THE  
KIDNAPPERS?

A. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT  
KILLED OR WHO.

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Q. BUT NORMALLY WHEN A TOP LEVEL GOVERNMENT STATEMENT LIKE THAT IS ISSUED GIVING A CAUSE OF DEATH, DON'T YOU USUALLY RELY UPON THE CERTIFICATION OF THE FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AS TO WHAT HAPPENED? DO YOU HAVE ANY REASON TO DISBELIEVE?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE ORDINARILY DO, BUT WE DO HAVE A MEDICAL CAPACITY WHICH WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO UTILIZE.

Q. BUT DO YOU DISBELIEVE WHAT IS SAID IN THAT CABLE?

A. I DON'T HAVE A CHARACTERIZATION OF OUR RECEPTION  
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OF THAT INFORMATION. WE ARE INTERESTED IN PURSUING THIS MATTER.

Q. THE QUESTION AROSE YESTERDAY ABOUT WHETHER THERE WERE ANY PROVISIONS FOR SECURITY GUARDS FOR HIM AND HIS LIMOUSINE. IS AFGHANISTAN ONE OF THE CAPITALS THAT REQUIRES OR NORMALLY HAS A GOOD DEAL OF SECURITY?

A. NO. THAT IS ACTUALLY NOT SO. LET ME GO THROUGH THIS BUNCH OF TAKEN QUESTIONS HERE. THERE WERE NO SECURITY PEOPLE, EITHER U.S. OR LOCAL, WITH THE AMBASSADOR WHEN HE WAS TAKEN POSTAGE.

HOW LONG WAS HE TAKEN HOSTAGE BEFORE HE WAS KILLED? SOME FOUR HOURS. HE WAS TAKEN HOSTAGE AT 8:45 A.M. KABUL TIME. HE WAS KILLED AT 12:45 P.M. KABUL TIME.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT SECURITY THREAT SCALE RUNS FROM ONE TO FIVE. KABUL WAS AT LEVEL THREE OR IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT SCALE. IN THE BUREAU UNDER WHOSE PROVINCE AFGHANISTAN LIES THERE ARE A NUMBER OF NATIONS WHICH HAVE A HIGHER SECURITY RATING THREAT LEVEL THAN THAT.

TO ANSWER ONE OTHER QUESTION TAKEN YESTERDAY, WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION TO SUBSTANTIATE THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT REPORT THAT THE TERRORISTS THREATENED TO KILL AMBASSADOR DUBS BEYOND THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF REPORTED THIS.

Q. A CLARIFICATION OF THAT LAST STATEMENT THAT YOU HAVE

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NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION TO SUBSTANTIATE THE REPORT THAT THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO KILL HIM WITHIN TEN MINUTES. YOU SAID YESTERDAY, I BELIEVE, THAT THERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WERE THREE AMERICANS THERE AT THE HOTEL. WERE THEY SORT OF ON THE SIDELINES?

A. ON THE SPOT, YES.

Q. WERE THEY NOT INVOLVED IN WHAT WAS BEING SAID BACK AND FORTH? THEY WERE JUST WATCHING FROM THE SIDELINES? WHAT WAS THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THIS?

A. THEY WERE NOT INCLUDED IN ANY OF THE OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES THAT WERE GOING ON.

Q. SO, THEY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT WAS BEING SAID BY THE PEOPLE IN THE ROOM?

A. THEY WERE NOT IN ON THE INNER DELIBERATIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS OF THOSE IN CHARGE OF THE EFFORT TO TAKE THE TERRORISTS AND RELEASE THE AMBASSADOR.

Q. WHY WAS THAT?

A. I HAVE TO ASK THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN.

Q. WHAT WAS THE SEQUENCE OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION? I BELIEVE YOU SAID YESTERDAY THAT THERE WERE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE RUSSIANS DURING THAT PERIOD WHEN THE AMBASSADOR WAS HELD HOSTAGE.

A. THERE WAS A COMMUNICATION URGING THEIR ASSISTANCE IN BRINGING RESTRAINT PRIOR TO THE ATTACK.

Q. BETWEEN WHERE AND WHERE? HERE AND MOSCOW OR HERE AND KABUL OR WHAT?

A. KABUL.

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Q. AS I RECALL, THIS IS THE THIRD AMBASSADOR IN RECENT YEARS IN THE MIDDLE EAST THAT WE HAVE HAD MURDERED. I WAS WONDERING, TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, HAS THE SOVIET UNION EVER HAD DURING THESE RECENT YEARS ANY AMBASSADORS OR DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL MURDERED IN THE MIDDLE EAST? DO YOU KNOW OF ANY?

A. I DON'T REMEMBER ANY. BUT I WILL TELL YOU THAT IS ONE OF THOSE GREAT AREAS OF IGNORANCE OF MINE. I WOULD FIND THAT POSSIBLE.

Q. WILL THE THREAT SCALE IN KABUL GO EITHER UP OR DOWN AND WILL WE INCREASE THE SECURITY OF FORCES?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. MY RECOLLECTION WAS THAT YOU INDICATED YESTERDAY THAT COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOVIETS ASKING CAUTION WAS IN MOSCOW, AND ASKING THEM TO RELAY IT DOWN TO KABUL.

A. IF I SO INDICATED, I WAS WRONG. I SAID WE COMMUNICATED. I THOUGHT THAT I TRIED TO TAKE OFF EITHER THE NATURE OF THE COMMUNICATION OR THE PLACE.

Q. WERE ALL THESE MESSAGES URGING RESTRAINT SUBSEQUENT TO BEING INFORMED BY THE KABUL AUTHORITIES THAT THEY INTENDED TO STORM THE ROOM?

A. SOME WERE PRECEDENT, SOME WERE SUBSEQUENT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT TODAY.

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Q. BACK ON KABUL: PARAPHRASING A REPORT YESTERDAY ON TELEVISION, ONE OF THE CORRESPONDENTS SAID THAT THE AMBASSADOR FELT HE HAD MADE PROGRESS SINCE JULY IN GETTING THE AFGHANISTANI AUTHORITIES TO LISTEN TO HIM SINCE THERE HAD BEEN THIS TENSION FOLLOWING THE COUP AND SO FORTH IN MAY. JUST ON AN OFFICIAL BASIS, DOES THAT CORRESPOND TO YOUR JUDGMENT THAT SINCE ASSUMING

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HIS POSITION IN JULY THERE HAD BEEN AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS?

A. AMBASSADOR DUBS WAS AN OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL, BUT I'M NOT REALLY GOING TO GO INTO THE NATURE OF OUR GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIP.

Q. ONE OTHER THING ON THE SECURITY. WAS IT YOUR INTENTION TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT BECAUSE KABUL WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS RANGE, AND THE NUMBER OF EMBASSIES COMING UNDER THE NEAR EAST BUREAU WERE IN A WORSE SITUATION -- THAT FOR BUDGETARY REASONS THERE WAS NO SECURITY?

A. NO. WHAT I WAS REALLY TRYING TO POINT OUT WAS THIS WAS NEVER CONSIDERED ONE OF THE DANGER-SPOT EMBASSIES.

Q. THEN THE ABSENCE OF A SECURITY GUARD ON HIS CAR IS NORMAL IN A "THREE" SITUATION, IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I DON'T WANT TO FALL INTO THAT ONE. I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IS NORMAL. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT THERE WASN'T ANY SECURITY GUARD THERE.

Q. HAVE YOU DRAWN ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT FUTURE STAFFING IN KABUL? WILL YOU WANT TO LOWER THE REPRESENTATION THERE?

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A. I HAVE NO CONCLUSIONS TO OFFER YOU.

Q. DOES THE LONG REPORT THAT YOU HAVE ON KABUL DESCRIBE WHAT THE SOVIET ADVISERS WERE DOING IN THE ROOM. DID WHOEVER WROTE THE REPORT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THEY WERE COUNSELING RESTRAINT OR THAT THEY WERE COUNSELING WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO GO ANY MORE INTO THAT REPORT OR THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SOVIETS. WE HAVE PROTESTED AND ASKED FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THOSE PEOPLE, AND THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT RIGHT NOW.

Q. ON IRAN, TO COME BACK TO MY QUESTION OF YESTERDAY

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ABOUT THOSE BROADCASTS ALONG THE BORDER, IS IT LIKELY THAT YOU WILL GO INTO THAT MATTER MORE CLOSELY, INTO THE NATURE OF THE BROADCASTS COMING OUT THE SOVIET UNION, AND TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THEY ARE IN ANY WAY AIDING AND ABETTING RADICAL ACTS ON THE GROUND?

A. WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT ANY ACTIVITY THAT ADDS TO THE UNREST IN IRAN OR WHICH THREATENS THE SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF AMERICANS IN IRAN, AND WE WILL PURSUE WITH SUCH NATIONS AS NECESSARY ON SUCH MATTERS, THOSE MATTERS. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE TO SAY ON THAT RIGHT NOW.

INCIDENTALLY, YOU ALL KNOW THAT ALL 18 AMERICANS DID COME BACK AND WERE ACCOUNTED FOR. CHRISTOPHER

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS.

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